announced in a Joint Press Conference with Prime Minister that South Africa would have no difficulty or objection in supplying uranium to India.

(d) No.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

G-8 summit in Japan

698. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had attended the G-8 Summit in Japan recently; and

(b) if so, the issues discussed therein and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Prime Minister attended the G-8 outreach sessions in Japan on 9 July 2008.

(b) The issues discussed at the outreach sessions included the Heiligendamm Process, world economy, climate change and environment, development, with focus on Africa and regional issues.

Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan jails

699. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen who are in Sri Lankan jails;

(b) whether Government of India has taken up their cause at diplomatic levels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As of October 2008, there is no *bona fide* fisherman of India in Sri Lankan custody. However, there are eight Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody for their alleged involvement in smuggling narcotics and explosives, and for transporting Sri Lankan refugees.

(b) and (c) Government have always taken up on a priority basis the question of the safety of our fishermen with Sri Lanka. High Commission of India in Colombo, Sri Lanka has taken up the issue with concerned Sri Lankan authorities for speedy disposal of the cases of the eight fishermen currently in custody.

Visit of US officials

700. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials, diplomats and political leaders from the United States who have visited the country in the last two years to hold talks on the Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement with Government of India, political parties and other officials; and

(b) the details of the talks available with Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There have been several visits by officials, diplomats and political leaders from the United States of America to India in the last two years. Notable among them were the visits of the US Treasury Secretary, Henry Paulson in October 2007, Governors of the US States of Minnesota and Utah in September-